

Prominent Egyptian Editor Accused as U.S. Spy

*He Was Caught Handing Over
Security Data, Cairo Says*

By HEDRICK SMITH
Special to The New York Times

CAIRO, July 22 — The Egyptian Government's official press agency has accused a prominent Cairo newspaper editor of having spied "a long time" for the United States Central Intelligence. It said he was caught red-handed on Tuesday, handing his American contact information "harmful to the security of the nation."

The Middle East News Agency, which made the accusation last night, identified the American as Bruce Taylor Odell, a diplomat who the agency charged "works for the C.I.A. under the guise of an attaché for the United States Embassy."

Although the embassy remained silent, informed sources said Foreign Minister Mahmoud Raid had summoned Ambassador Lucius D. Battle to discuss the case.

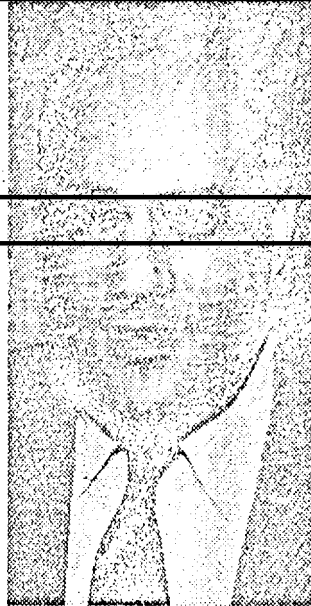
Neither country would disclose whether the Egyptians had demanded Mr. Odell's expulsion, but his departure was considered imminent in view of the Egyptian press agency's accusations. Mr. Odell, 35 years old, joined the Embassy last August.

Arrest Stirs Rumors

With the press-agency report, Cairo broke its silence on the arrest of Mustafa Amin, a dean of the Egyptian press and one of the most respected editors in the Middle East. Rumors had swept the city since Tuesday afternoon, when Mr. Amin was picked up in Alexandria.

Another reporter for Mr. Amin's paper, Akhbar al Yom, was arrested yesterday as the investigation widened. Informed sources identified him as Mustafa Sinan, who reports on the Government Security Department.

So far no official charges against Mr. Amin have been announced. The office of the State Prosecutor General merely announced his arrest in "an im-



The New York Times
Mustafa Amin

portant case" and forbade the publication of any information on the case.

According to the Middle East News Agency, Mr. Amin, long known for his pro-Western sympathies and contacts as well as his journalistic ability, was recruited "a long time ago by the C.I.A."

The agency said that he had been caught by Egyptian intelligence officials "while giving a weekly report at the request of the C.I.A." and that Egyptian authorities had confiscated a paper "that contains questions from the C.I.A. in the handwriting of Bruce Taylor Odell and Mustafa Amin's answers, which contained political and military information harmful to the security and safety of the nation."

Reliable sources said two men had been in Mr. Amin's villa at Alexandria having lunch when Egyptian agents arrested them. These sources said Mr. Odell had been held about 90 minutes for questioning but had been released when he established diplomatic immunity by showing his passport.

Mr. Odell, a native of Massa-

*Attache in American Embassy
Is Called His C.I.A. Contact*

chusetts, lives with his wife and their three children in suburban Maadi, where many American diplomats have their homes.

Mr. Amin, 51 years old, founded several newspapers and magazines with his twin brother, Ali Amin. He was arrested once before—in 1952, three weeks after the coup d'état that overthrew King Farouk.

U.S. Confirms Detention
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 22 — The State Department confirmed today that Mr. Odell had been briefly detained, questioned and then released in connection with the arrest of Mr. Amin.

Robert J. McCloskey, State Department press officer, said Mr. Odell had been released after he had identified himself as an American diplomat.

Other sources elaborated that Mr. Odell had been lunching with Mr. Amin at the editor's residence in Alexandria.

Shortly after 2 P.M., the police entered and arrested Mr. Amin, according to a "preliminary report" on the incident, received by the State Department from the embassy in Cairo.

Officials here said they "presumed" that Mr. Odell was not taken into custody with Mr. Amin, but was questioned on the spot and released after the police learned of his diplomatic identity.

United States officials said Mr. Odell had been in Alexandria on leave when he called on Mr. Amin.

The department said it had received no word from the embassy in Cairo that Egyptian authorities had formally accused Mr. Odell of any wrong conduct.

The Central Intelligence Agency referred all inquiries to the State Department.

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